

LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXVIII No. 1

March 2005

CALENDAR

March 19, Bullis Charter School (BCS); "Fly Me to the Moon"
Dinner / Auction, at Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club.

April 24, Sunday - EARTH DAY AT WESTWIND BARN;

1-4 PM;
Info.
Call:
941-4808



May 7, Saturday; FUN RUN; 9 AM, See Flyer.

May 7, Saturday; KENTUCKY DERBY DAY, Maple Leaf Court on Elena Road, 12 Noon Festivities; Run for the Roses at 3:05 PM. See Invite: Page 5; Info. Call: 941-9503.

June 5, Sunday; LAH TOWN PICNIC, Little League Fields, Purissima Road; 1-4 PM; See Article Page 5.

BCS PLAYS: May 19, "Mary Poppins"— Lower grade play; **June 3, 4 "ONE"** — Upper grades play. Check the Bullis Charter School Web Site at www.bullischarterschool.com, or call (650) 947-4939 for details on all of these events.

Town Studying Options for Return of Public Education

The survey results are in! Last September the Public Education Committee commissioned a professional telephone survey to determine the public's views on the future of public education in our town. A final written report was submitted to the PEC in October, which was studied, summarized, and then delivered to the Town Council in January. The survey, reaching 494 residents, contained 19 questions addressing public education, and focused on: (1) the importance of various community issues, (2) satisfaction with the quality of public education, (3) awareness of the Bullis Charter School, (4) the level of support for our Council's committing staff and resources to return public education to town; (5) general level of support for realigning school districts in order to return a public elementary school to our town, and (6) specific level of support for three proposed redistricting options. The maximum margin of error for questions answered by all respondents was statistically computed to be 4.86 %.

To develop the survey, the PEC collaborated with a well-respected, public-opinion research company, devoting many months to the mission. The subcommittee worked on five drafts of the survey before it was finalized and approved by two designated Councilmembers, Breene Kerr and Bob Fenwick.

The results showed that:

- 72% of respondents support having our town commit staff time and financial resources to return public education to the Town;
- 70% of respondents support our town committing staff time and financial resources to re-open Bullis Elementary School as part of the Los Altos School District;
- 68% of respondents were satisfied with the quality of public education in their community;
- 65% of respondents would support an effort to realign school districts serving students in town, if doing so would help re-establish a public elementary school within our town; and
- 61% of respondents would support our town committing staff time and financial resources to bring the Bullis Charter School within town boundaries.

The survey collected viewpoints during a single "slice in time." Its protocol did not allow for informed surveyors who could answer questions, nor educate people during the calls. Understandably, many residents are just becoming aware of the Charter School, are not yet familiar with its legal and educational distinctions, nor with the process and many implications of school redistricting.

The PEC is now analyzing the feasibility of many educational options, in order to present a preliminary analysis to the Town Council in February. Future articles will seek to educate residents on the characteristics, advantages and disadvantages of the most promising options available to our Town, and how they might shape our future. The PEC analysis of the survey, as well as the full survey report, can be reviewed at Town Hall during normal business hours, or on the Town Website: <http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/AgendaManager/uploads/town-news/index.html>



Bullis School